

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A tire, comprising:
 - an inboard tire wall having a bead;
 - an outboard tire wall having a bead, a wheel protector, and a flange seat;
 - the outboard tire wall having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, and the inboard tire wall having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, the widths of the outboard and inboard tire walls being approximately the same;
 - the flange seat on the outboard tire wall having an inner diameter, a substantially horizontal ledge, and a width therebetween, and the outboard bead having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, the width of the flange seat being greater than the width of the outboard bead, the flange seat being configured to receive a wheel flange for creating the appearance of a larger diameter wheel mounted within a low-profile tire.
2. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 1, wherein the flange seat is configured to interface with an extended outer flange of a wheel when mounted thereon to thereby simulate the appearance of a low-profile tire on a large-diameter wheel.
3. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 1, wherein the outboard and inboard tire walls are approximately mirror images of each other.
4. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 1, wherein a cross-section of the ledge is substantially parallel to the axis of the tire.
5. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 1, wherein the ledge has an inboard edge, an outboard edge, and a width therebetween, the width of the ledge being at least about 1/8 inch.
6. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 5, wherein the width of the ledge is between 1/8 inch and about 1/4 inch.
7. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 1, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 1-1/2 inches.
8. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 7, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

9. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 7, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

10. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 7, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

11. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 1, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2 inches.

12. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 11, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

13. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 11, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

14. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 11, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

15. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 1, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2-1/2 inches.

16. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 15, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

17. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 15, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

18. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 15, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

19. (withdrawn) A tire for enhancing a simulated appearance of a large-diameter wheel mounted within a low-profile tire, the tire comprising:

an outboard tire wall, an inboard tire wall, and a tread, the outboard tire wall having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, the width of the outboard tire wall being at least about 3-1/2 inches;

a flange seat formed on at least the outboard tire wall, the flange seat having an inner diameter, a ledge, and a width therebetween, wherein the width of the flange seat is between about one-quarter and about one-half as large as the width of the outboard tire wall, the flange seat being configured to receive a flange with an outboard face attached to a wheel mounted within the tire without obscuring the outboard face of the flange; and

the distance between the tread and the inner diameter of the outboard tire wall being about the same as the distance between the tread and the inner diameter of the inboard tire wall.

20. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 19, wherein a cross-section of the ledge is substantially parallel to the axis of the tire.

21. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 19, wherein the outboard and inboard tire walls are approximately mirror images of each other

22. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 1-1/2 inches.

23. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

24. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

25. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2 inches.

26. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 25, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

27. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 25, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

28. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 19, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2-1/2 inches.

29. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 28, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

30. (withdrawn) The tire of Claim 28, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

31. (currently amended) A tire for enhancing a simulated appearance of a large-diameter wheel mounted within a low-profile tire, the tire comprising:

an outboard tire wall, an inboard tire wall, and a tread between the outboard and inboard tire walls;

the outboard tire wall comprising a wheel protector, a ledge with an inboard end and an outboard end, a flange seat configured to receive an extended flange on a wheel mounted within the tire, and words indicating a recommended tire pressure, the words being positioned on a portion of the outboard tire wall radially outwardly beyond the flange seat, the positioning of the words being configured to permit the words to be visible when the tire is mounted on a wheel with an extended flange;

the inboard tire wall and the outboard tire wall each being at least between about 3-1/2 inches and about 5-1/2 inches in length, and each of the inboard and outboard tire walls having about the same length;

the wheel protector extending in the outboard direction further than any other portion of the outboard tire wall, and the distance between the inboard and outboard ends of the ledge being at least about 1/8 inch;

the flange seat comprising an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, the inner diameter of the flange seat being the inner diameter of the outboard tire wall, and the outer diameter of the flange seat being located at the ledge, the radial distance between the inner and outer diameters of the flange seat being at least about 1-1/2 inches.

32. (previously presented) The tire of Claim 31, further comprising inboard and outboard beads each having an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a width therebetween, wherein the inboard bead and the outboard bead have substantially the same width.

33. (cancelled).

34. (cancelled).

35. (original) The tire of Claim 31, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2 inches.

36. (original) The tire of Claim 35, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

37. (original) The tire of Claim 35, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

38. (original) The tire of Claim 35, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

39. (original) The tire of Claim 31, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about 2-1/2 inches.

40. (original) The tire of Claim 39, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-quarter of the width of the outboard tire wall.

41. (original) The tire of Claim 39, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-third of the width of the outboard tire wall.

42. (original) The tire of Claim 39, wherein the width of the flange seat is at least about one-half of the width of the outboard tire wall.

43. (cancelled).

44. (currently amended) The tire of Claim 43 31, wherein the ledge is substantially horizontal with respect to the tire axial direction.

45. (previously presented) The tire of Claim 44, wherein the width of the ledge is between about 1/8 inch and about 1/4 inch.

46. (currently amended) The tire of Claim 31 in combination with a wheel mounted within the tire, wherein the wheel protector ~~is configured to extend~~ extends at least about 1/16 inch beyond an outboard face of ~~[[a]] the wheel mounted within the tire~~.

47. (currently amended) The tire and wheel combination of Claim 46, wherein the wheel protector ~~is configured to extend~~ extends between about 1/16 inch and about 1/4 inch beyond an outboard face of ~~[[a]] the wheel mounted within the tire~~.

48. (previously presented) The tire of Claim 31, wherein a portion of the flange seat positioned immediately adjacent to and radially inwardly from the ledge is located substantially further in the inboard direction than a portion of the outboard tire wall positioned immediately adjacent to and radially outwardly from the wheel protector.

49. (currently amended) The tire of Claim 31, wherein a ~~majority~~ an upper portion of the flange seat is substantially vertical with respect to the tire axial direction.

50. (previously presented) The tire of Claim 31, wherein the width of the flange seat is no more than about 2-1/2 inches.

51. (currently amended) The tire of Claim 31, wherein the outboard tire wall between the flange seat and the tread ~~tapers~~ extends inwardly.

Appl. No. : **10/829,631**
Filed : **April 22, 2004**

52. (currently amended) The tire of Claim 31, wherein a substantial lower portion of the flange seat includes a curved surface.

53. (previously presented) The tire of Claim 31, wherein the outboard tire wall has a shape that is different from the shape of the inboard tire wall.

Appl. No. : 10/829,631
Filed : April 22, 2004

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on May 3, 2007, the Examiner objected to certain portions of the specification and claims, and the Examiner rejected Claims 1-32, 35-42, and 46-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Examiner indicated that Claims 43-45 would be allowable if amended to overcome the cited objections.

Applicants believe that all of the claims were supported by the text and/or drawings of the specification as originally filed. However, to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have addressed each of the Examiner's objections in the foregoing amendments. Applicants do not concede that the amendments were necessary for patentability.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. None of the cited prior art, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a tire as claimed to simulate the appearance of a large-diameter wheel mounted within a low profile tire. Nevertheless, to expedite the allowance of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claim 31 to include the limitation of Claim 43. Applicants have also cancelled Claim 43 and amended the dependency of Claim 44. Applicants have now presented all of the claims in a form that the Examiner has indicated are allowable. Applicants do not concede that these amendments were necessary for patentability, and Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims in the future that are similar to or the same as those previously pending in this application.

Moreover, the claims of the present application are different in scope than any pending claims in any related application or issued claims in any related patent. To the extent that any amendments or characterizations of the scope of any claim or prior art in a related application or patent could be construed as a disclaimer of any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, the Applicants hereby rescind and retract such disclaimer.

All pending claims are believed to be allowable. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned counsel to expedite allowance of this

Appl. No. : 10/829,631
Filed : April 22, 2004

application. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 5/31/07

By: Paul Conover
Paul N. Conover
Registration No. 44,087
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

3826235
053107